

Message Text

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62

ACTION ARA-10

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P R 091900Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4174

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

USCINCSO

UNCLAS TEGUCIGALPA 3870

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR,ZVOAS, ES, HO

SUBJ: COMMENT ON OAS OBSERVERS AND MANAGUA MEETING

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 3783 (DTG 041710Z AUG 76)

1. THE LOCAL PRESS CARRIED REPORTS OVER THE WEEKEND OF THE ARRIVAL OF FOUR HELICOPTERS FROM SOUTHCOM TO BE UTILIZED BY THE OAS OBSERVERS. THE REPORTS INDICATED THAT THE UNARMED U. S. MILITARY HELICOPTERS HAD BEEN REQUESTED BY THE OAS. TWO OF THE HELICOPTERS ARE TO BE BASED IN EL SALVADOR AND TWO IN HONDURAS. EACH PAIR OF HELICOPTERS HAS A CREW OF SEVEN MEN, INCLUDING GROUND MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL. THE REPORT ALSO NOTED THAT SOUTHCOM HAD SENT THREE OFFICERS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PEACE KEEPING OAS OBSERVER FORCE.

2. THE PRESS ALSO CARRIED REPORTS OF THE MEETING OF THE HONDURAN AND SALVADORAN CHIEFS OF STAFF TOGETHER WITH OAS OBSERVERS AND OAS OBSERVERS COMMANDER GENERAL LUIS MARIA MIRO IN MANAGUA ON AUGUST 8. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS THE CHIEFS OF STAFF AGREED TO THE IMMEDIATE CREATION OF A DIMILITARIZED

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ZONE ALONG THE HONDURAN-SALVADORAN BORDER. THE MEETING BEING

HELD BEHID CLOSED DOORS, WILL CONTINUE TODAY, AUGUST 9. THE SALVADORAN DELEGATION PRESENTED A DOCUMENT AT THE MEETING RELATED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SAN JOSE AGREEMENT. DISCUSSIONS AT THE MEETING CENTERED AROUND THE TECHNICALITIES INVOLVED IN PULLING TROOPS BACK THREE KILOMETERS FROM THE BORDER. THE PULL BACK IS TO BE COMPLETED WITHIN SEVENTY-TWO HOURS OF ITS BEING UNDERTAKEN. PRESS STATEMENTS REPORTED THAT NICARAGUAN PRESIDENT SOMOZA MET WITH DELEGATIONS AND GENERAL MIRO AND HAD A BRIEF DISCUSSION WITH THEM AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING. THE SALVADORAN DELEGATION, HEADED BY THE ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF, WAS MADE UP ENTIRELY OF MILITARY OFFICERS. THE HONDURAN ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF, LT.COL. CESAR ELVIR SIERRA, WAS ACCOMPANIED BY FORMER FONMINS CESAR BATRES AND JORGE FIDEL DURON; VICE-FONMIN POLICARPO CALLEJAS; AND LT. COLS. LEONIDAS TORRES ARIAS (G-2) AND WILFREDO SANCHEZ. BARTCH

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